

Remarks

This is intended to be a complete response to the restriction made in the official action mailed October 3, 2003. Applicants have elected claims 1-2, 6-7, 21 and 25-29 of Group I. The election is made without traverse.

Applicants have been required to elect a single disclosed amino acid for each position in the general peptide formula. Applicants traverse the examiner's assertion that the peptides are patentably distinct and admit that the portions of the peptides comprising amino acids AA₁₋₁₀ upstream of X₁, AA₁₋₄, AA₄₋₂₀, and AA₁₋₁₀ downstream of X₄ are not patentably distinct (see page 6, lines 23-26 of the specification). Applicants elect the peptide species comprising X₁=Cys, X₂=Cys, X₃=His, and X₄=His for further prosecution.

Claims 1, 6, 7, 21 and 28 are generic and read on the elected peptide species, Claims 2, 25-27, and 29 are generic and read on the elected species.

Applicants hereby request an examination on the merits.

Respectfully submitted,



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